

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup of the DOTCOM Act
June 16, 2015**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

With this markup, we look to build upon our record of bipartisan success. The Internet is the global center of communications and commerce. It links families and friends, buyers and sellers, and constituents to their governments. It has transformed the way the world interacts and communicates. As we look toward the next step in its evolution, we must do so with an eye toward preserving the Internet's vitality and character.

The DOTCOM Act serves as an essential check within our government. The Internet has come a long way from its days as a government research network and the concrete steps toward privatization have made it stronger. As we look toward taking another step in that process – removing the U.S. government from its oversight of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority – we must look before we leap.

I am pleased that the concerns of this committee have been incorporated into the discussions throughout the multi-stakeholder community. Looking forward, the DOTCOM Act simply and sensibly asks NTIA to wait – and preserve its contractual role – until it is ready to tell Congress that the changes to ICANN and other Internet structures necessary for the transition have been made. The legislation also ensures that accountability measures have been put in place so that the Internet community can take action should ICANN stray from its path.

Thanks to the hard work and negotiations between Chairman Walden, Mr. Shimkus, and Ranking Member Pallone, this bipartisan legislation maintains the appropriate oversight role of Congress and asks the hard questions to ensure that we are taking a responsible route to a successful transition. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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